bridges. The issues raised were replied by the Railway Administration and efforts made by Railways to find suitable diagnostic techniques available world over for monitoring health of various components of old bridges were appreciated by the Commission. The issues raised by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS), the reply thereto of Railway Administration & further comments of CCRS are contained in the Annual Report of Commission of Railway Safety laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 16.05.2006.

(b) The running of higher axle load wagons on some identified Iron Ore & Coal routes has been taken up as a Pilot project scheme. Various Issues related to this were discussed in a meeting between CCRS and Railway Board on 07.10.2005 and accordingly, speed certificates are being issued by RDSO & CRS sanctions are being taken by Zonal Railway.

(c) and (d) The Pilot project for running of higher axle load wagons on some identified Iron Ore & Coal routes has been in operation for one year now. No adverse effects have been noticed on bridges on these routes. The pilot project was started after theoretical assessment of standard spans by RDSO and other bridges by Zonal Railways. The bridges were inspected physically by Zonal Railways and kept under close observation. A few selected bridges have also been instrumented to keep a record of their behaviour.

(e) The Special Railway Safety Fund was started in 2001-02. A total of 1920 bridges at a cost of Rs. 875.88 Cr. have been rebuilt/repaired/ rehabilitated till 31.03.2006 under Special Railway Safety Fund.

Close circuit TVs in major express trains

1904. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has installed any CCTVs in the major express trains in the country;

(b) if so, the names of express trains which have CCTVs to monitor the entry and exit of people from trains;

(c) whether Railways has also examined the possibility of having random monitoring in an intensive manner at selected stations and trains; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase technical monitoring of trains all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Survey of Bhopal-Barkhera-Budhani Ghat rail line

†1905. MISS. ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey of third line between Bhopal-Itarasi-Barkhera Budhani Ghat has been conducted;

(b) if not, whether survey is likely to be conducted for the same and by when; and

(c) the details of the survey if that has been conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Survey for 3rd line between Bhopal and Itarasi *via* Barkhera & Budhani (92 km) has been taken up. Filed studies have been completed. Final report from Railways is expected by Nov., 2006.

Palace on Wheels in Karnataka

1906. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation for running a luxury tourist train in Karnataka on the lines of Rajasthan's 'Palace on Wheels'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the places to be connected by the proposed train and by when the train is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.